

## **ISRAEL EVANS.**

### **Biography from the Lehi Centennial History**

Israel Evans was born in Hanover, Columbus County, Ohio, October 2, 1828, his parents being David and Mary Beck Evans. At the age of five years he went with his parents to Missouri, and four years later to Nauvoo, Illinois. As his father's earnings were no more than sufficient for the support of the family, Israel's education was limited to the simple studies taught in the district schools.

In July, 1846, he enlisted in the Mormon Battalion at Council Bluffs, hoping that his enlistment might save some older man of family from service. He received his discharge after a year of severe duty in California. He then went to work at Sutter's Mill and was employed in the company which discovered gold. He worked in the gold fields long enough to fit himself to return to Utah, in a party under the command of Captain Ira J. Willes.

He arrived in Salt Lake City October 1, 1848, and was married January 1, 1849, to Matilda A. Thomas. In the fall of 1850 he came to Lehi, where a few families had already settled at Snow's Springs.

He assisted in surveying the first farm lands and towns, and in locating and digging the first irrigating ditches, including the ditch from American Fork Canyon, which was a great undertaking for that time.

In 1853 he was assigned to a four-year mission to England, which he honorably filled. On his return he had charge of one of the handcart companies, which he brought successfully across the plains. In 1868 he went upon a second mission to the eastern states. He was one of the presidents of the 68th quorum of seventies, was Mayor of Lehi for one term, and upon several occasions was elected

to the City Council. He was also appointed major in the local division of the Territorial militia.

He was ever a public-spirited man. It was largely owing to him that a bill was passed establishing the Agricultural College and he was instrumental in the location of the sugar factory at Lehi, maintaining and proving the suitability of the proposed site, in spite of discouraging conditions.

He died May 31, 1896, in Lehi, respected by all who knew him. His belief in the faith of his choice was unshaken through life, and he left behind him the unblemished record of an honest, loyal, and generous citizen.